



**Pamela Eclar Diéguez, Esq.**  
**Office of International Affairs**  
**International Programs & Policy**  
**Multilateral Programs**

**Special Agent Akil Baldwin**  
**Office of Investigations**  
**Special Agent in Charge**  
**Washington DC**



**U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement**

# Office of International Affairs (OIA)

## Mission

- To protect the United States by enhancing its security through international investigations involving transnational criminal organizations responsible for the illegal movement of people, goods, and technology, and through strong and integral intelligence and removal programs.

## Vision

- To become the primary component for DHS international law enforcement operations. Our organization will remain flexible to meet the ever-changing challenges and threats in the global environment by attracting the best of our profession, fostering teamwork, and valuing innovation.



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# ICE OIA Priorities

- ICE Investigative Priorities
  - Human Smuggling and Trafficking
  - Money Laundering
  - National Security Investigations
    - Export Control
    - Munitions Control
  - Operation Predator
  - Contraband Smuggling
- Presidential Priorities
  - Visa Security Program
  - Container Security Initiative



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# International Footprint

- 60 Offices in 43 Countries
- 149 HQ Staff
- 382 Overseas Staff (including 132 Locally Engaged Staff)



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Operational Areas of Responsibility



# Background on OIA's Efforts in Mexico

- Funding for OIA's Global Trafficking in Persons (G-TIP) initiative is from the President's \$50 million Trafficking in Persons (TIP) initiative.
- OIA received \$2 million to assist the Mexican government to develop an anti-trafficking investigative program.
- Program started in 2005, with the placement of an ICE Program Coordinator in Mexico City, Mexico.
- ICE has expended resources for agents, TIP training programs, outreach, and logistical assistance for Mexican investigative teams.



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# Ongoing Efforts

- Development of a training calendar tailored to human trafficking cases that focus on victim attention and assistance, evidence collection and preservation, crime scene management, and investigative techniques.
- Coordination of investigations with ICE and various Mexican prosecutorial and investigative agencies.
- Assistance to the Government of Mexico (GoM) to promote legislation to enhance the penalties for violators of trafficking.
- ICE and Department of Justice (DOJ) study tour with Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) of successful facilities in the United States that service trafficking victims, which will serve as a model for future projects in Mexico.



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# First TIP Case Charged by GoM

- ICE-led G-TIP investigation with FBI, PGR, and Agencia Federal de Investigación (AFI) participation.
- Based on an ICE investigation, two Mexican nationals, Cristina HERNANDEZ and Saul ROMERO-Rugerio were indicted.
- ICE agents coordinated with Attache Mexico City agents for assistance.
- On September 11, 2009, GoM authorities arrested HERNANDEZ and placed two minors believed to be the children of a trafficking victim in protective custody.



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# Operation Supersonic

## Special Agent in Charge New York

- ICE investigation initiated in December 2003 when the mother of a trafficking victim reported to the U.S. Embassy, Mexico City, that her daughter had been kidnapped and kept against her will at a New York residence.
- Investigation identified a Mexico-based family group engaged in the smuggling of young Mexican women into the U.S., holding them against their will and forcing them into prostitution.



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# Operation Supersonic (cont'd)



Josue Flores  
Carreto



Daniel Perez  
Alonso



Gerardo Flores  
Carreto

- Seven defendants plead guilty to various federal violations including Sex Trafficking, Forced Labor, Alien Smuggling for Financial Gain, and Importing Aliens for Immoral Purposes
- Two defendants sentenced to 50 years and one to 25 years for sex trafficking
- January 2007, Mexico extradited Consuelo Carreto Valencia, the mother of the Carreto brothers, to the U.S. In July 2008, Carreto Valencia plead guilty to sex trafficking



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# Ibrahim/Boateng Investigation

- Part of a network smuggled nationals from East Africa to the United States
- ICE worked closely with the Mexican and Belizean officials
- Both individuals were ultimately arrested and extradited to the United States



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# Identifying alien smuggling and trafficking organizations

- Continuing to work with Attaché offices and foreign counterparts to identify and disrupt organizations.
  - Assist with identifying targets and witnesses
  - Gathering evidence
  - Work with foreign government to arrest and prosecute
  - Assist with extradition and expulsion
  - Identify new routes used by smugglers

This is a team effort!



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# Working with Non-Governmental Organizations

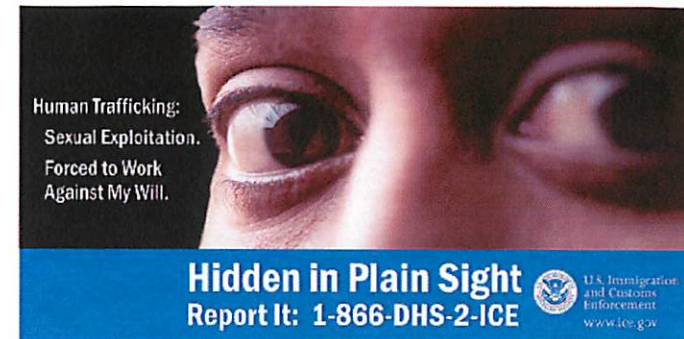
- ICE continues to work with the NGO community to identify potential smuggling/trafficking victims.
- ICE provides outreach trainings to NGOs
  - ICE OIA hosted three Forced Child Labor/Human Trafficking/Child Sex Tourism training events in June and July 2009.
  - ICE OI Special Agent in Charge Washington DC Office held a NGO Outreach event, September 16, 2009.
  - ICE OIA NGO Liaison Working Group held its first meeting on September 17, 2009.



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# Public Awareness Campaign

- Public Service Announcements
- Billboard & Transit Ad Campaign
- Trafficking Indicator Wallet Size Cards



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# Chicago 2008



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# San Diego 2008



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CSIS Conference – September 2009

# Indicators of Trafficking

## Trafficking Indicators

- ☐ Is the victim in possession of identification and travel documents; if not, who has control of the documents?
- ☐ Was the victim coached on what to say to law enforcement and immigration officials?
- ☐ Was the victim recruited for one purpose and forced to engage in some other job?
- ☐ Is the victim's salary being garnished to pay off a smuggling fee? (Paying off a smuggling fee alone is not considered trafficking.)
- ☐ Was the victim forced to perform sexual acts?
- ☐ Does the victim have freedom of movement?
- ☐ Has the victim or family been threatened with harm if the victim attempts to escape?
- ☐ Has the victim been threatened with deportation or law enforcement action?
- ☐ Has the victim been harmed or deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care or other life necessities?
- ☐ Can the victim freely contact friends or family?
- ☐ Is the victim a juvenile engaged in commercial sex?
- ☐ Is the victim allowed to socialize or attend religious services?

Report Suspicious Activity: **1-866-DHS-2-ICE** (1-866-347-2423) • [www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov)



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# Indicators of Trafficking

## Trafficking vs. Smuggling

**Human Trafficking** is defined as:

- sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or
- the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.

**Human Smuggling** is defined as the importation of people into the United States involving deliberate evasion of immigration laws. This offense includes bringing illegal aliens into the United States as well as the unlawful transportation and harboring of aliens already in the United States.

These are *not* interchangeable terms

- **Smuggling** is transportation-based
- **Trafficking** is exploitation-based



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# Links between smuggling organizations and other organizations

- Other organizations may use same or similar methods to smuggle drugs, weapons and other items into the US



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# Resources

- Project visa - [www.projectvisa.com](http://www.projectvisa.com) – Website provides information on all visa requirements worldwide
- ICE website - [www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov)
- ICE anonymous tip line 866-DHS-2-ICE



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# QUESTIONS ???

**Special Agent Akil Baldwin**  
**Email: [Akil.Baldwin@dhs.gov](mailto:Akil.Baldwin@dhs.gov)**  
**Phone: 703-285-6777**

**Pamela Eclar Diéguez, Esq.**  
**Email: [Pamela.Dieguez@dhs.gov](mailto:Pamela.Dieguez@dhs.gov)**  
**Phone: 202-732-0313**



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